**Industrial Accidents**

2600. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the industrial accidents in the country since January, 1988 to 30th August, 1988 Statewise, and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government have taken any step to restrict|reduce such accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (c) Statistics on industrial accidents in the country are compiled on an annual basis and as such the information is not available.

The Factories Act, 1948 lays down a number of provisions for ensuring safety in manufacturing processes. The Act was amended in 1987 with a view to making safety provisions more stringent and effective. The responsibility for enforcement of the Act lies with the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations. The Central Government issues guidelines to the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations from time to time regarding enforcement of safety provisions and meeting emergencies.

An ILO Project on "Establishment and initial operation of major accident hazard control system in India" is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour with the main objective of strengthening the national system for the Prevention of occupational accidents to enable identification, analysis and control of industrial activities involving hazardous substances and processes which have the potential to result in major accidents.

**Natural Pearls from Fresh Water Pond in West Bengal**

2601. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that natural pearls were discovered from fresh water pond meant for pisciculture on the southern fringe of Calcutta;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Geological Survey of India has confirmed that the pearls are real; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to extract more pearls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) Geological Survey of India have reported that they did not get any pearl in the shells they collected from the pond meant for pisciculture on the Southern fringe of Calcutta near Jadavpur. However, three loose pearls shown to the Geological Survey of India, stated to have been recovered from the pond have been identified as pearls. Occurrence of fresh water pearls in isolated cases is a freak incident.

**SC|ST employees in NCCF**

2602. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the standing instructions of Government regarding reservations for Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes candidates in appointments and promotions and the details of directive issued to NCCF in this regard on the 18th March, 1976;

(b) the number of SC|ST candidates recruited and promoted accordingly each year in NCCF since the above directive was received;

(c) how many SC|ST candidates in the above years have been selected for training in India|abroad under the above policy; and

(d) the number of SC|ST candidates being considered at present for departmental promotion and also for clearing the back-log?